



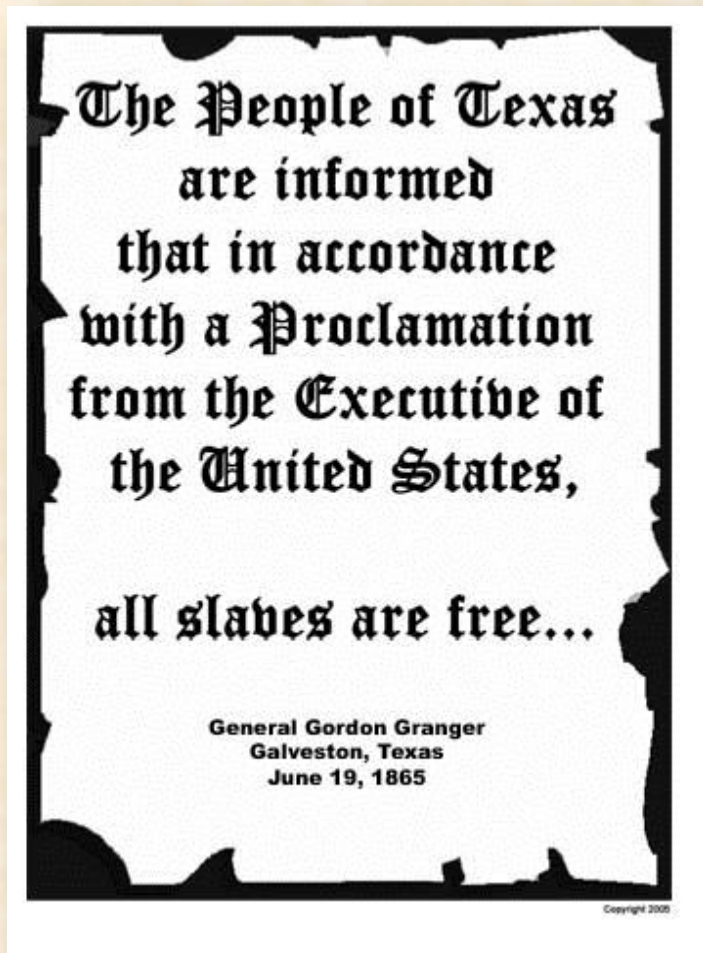
Reedy Chapel A.M.E. Church

JUNETEENTH

**A Community Celebration of
Faith, Freedom and Family**

Featuring
Historic Reenactment of the
First Documented Celebration of
Emancipation in Galveston

General Order No. 3 was delivered in Galveston, June 19, 1865, effectively freeing the last slaves in the United States.



Although there were reported spontaneous outbursts of celebration of this great news, the first documented celebration of emancipation in Galveston was scheduled for January 1, 1866, a date based on the effective date of the Emancipation Proclamation issued and signed January 1, 1863.

U. S. W. 1865, DEAN OF THE COUNTY.

EMANCIPATION CELEBRATION
—BY—
COLORED PERSONS.

All colored persons residing in Galveston, are invited to attend on New Year's Morning, at 10 o'clock, at the Public Square, to celebrate the abolition of slavery. Addresses will be delivered by Alex. Pearce Howard Cavanaugh, and the Rev. Daniel Gregory. All colored people, and their friends, are invited to attend. United States officers are especially desired to be present. de31

These two small announcements appeared in the Dec. 31, 1865 edition of the *Flakes Galveston Daily Bulletin*.

NEGRO CELEBRATION.—The colored residents of Galveston propose to celebrate their emancipation from slavery by a public meeting on the public square, on to-morrow morning at ten o'clock.

long winter nights.

JAN 2, 1866
NEW YEAR'S DAY.—The year of grace, '66, gave us a most uncomfortable specimen of its quality yesterday. A more stormy New Year's could not well have been anticipated. It bore particularly hard on the freedmen who celebrated their emancipation from slavery. The male portion of the procession occupied the middle of the street, while the females took the side-walk, and with up-lifted skirts, boldly plunged through the mud and water. The display of ankles was such as is not often seen on the Strand when the walking is good.

EMANCIPATION CELEBRATION.—The colored people of Galveston celebrated their emancipation from slavery yesterday by a procession. Notwithstanding the storm some eight hundred or a thousand men, women and children took part in the demonstration. The procession was orderly and creditable to those participating in it. A meeting was held in the colored Church, on Broadway, at which addresses were delivered by a number of speakers, among whom was Gen. Gregory, Assistant Commissioner of Freedmen. The General gave them a great deal of good, plain advice, which, if they follow, will redound to their well being and prosperity. The Emancipation Proclamation of President Lincoln was read. The singing, John Brown's body lies mouldering in the ground, was also a part of the programme. So far as

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On January 2, 1866, *The Flakes Daily Bulletin* reported on the Emancipation Celebration.

"...some eight hundred or a thousand men, women and children took part in the demonstration. The processions was orderly and creditable to those participating in it. A meeting was held in the colored Church, on Broadway..."

That "colored church on Broadway" was **Reedy Chapel A.M.E. Church.**

Each year, Reedy Chapel celebrates that historic event with a city-wide community event that includes a reenactment of the procession, an inspirational program and educational workshops and exhibits.



Buffalo Soldiers from the National Buffalo Soldiers Museum of Houston read General Order No. 3 on the steps of the Old Galveston Court House at 722- Moody Avenue.



Buffalo Soldiers proudly lead the procession from the Old Court House to Reedy Chapel.



Proud marchers sing along the procession route.

Traditional African drums welcome the marchers as they cross Broadway and head for the Church.



Community members fill the sanctuary to capacity for the program of celebration that follows the march.





The Galveston Heritage Chorale under the direction of Mrs. Izola Collins perform at the celebration in the Church.

Reenactors bring history to life for the audience.



A quilter displays living history in original story quilts about African American history.



Community response to the program
is evident in the faces of attendees.

